

Article published Dec 21, 2007

### **Volunteerism rewarding**

Have you overcome adversity in life? Perhaps with the help of others, you were able to work through a negative situation and became a better individual.

Four years ago, my daughter and I began volunteering for Therapeutic Riding of Erie County ([treceerie.org](http://treceerie.org)). It is a program that provides safe equine-assisted activities for individuals with special needs.

Dedicated volunteers and instructors perform vital roles to help challenged people grow and develop in many ways. But I have grown, too.

There is a satisfaction in knowing you have brought smiles to others. At the same time, you come to realize how small your own problems really are.

It is an intrinsic reward that can't be derived from shopping at the mall or being able to possess a lot of material things.

During this holiday season, I encourage you to make a commitment to volunteer to enhance the lives of others in your community. You won't be disappointed.

Tom Fetterman

Girard